

**Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant Program
Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control,
River and Coastal Protection Act of 2006 (Proposition 84)**

Subregion: SOUTH **County:** TULARE

Applicant: SEQUOIA RIVERLANDS TRUST

Project Title: VISITOR ACCESS AND OUTDOOR EDUCATION PLANS FOR DRY CREEK AND HOMER RANCH

Reference Number: SNC 070270

PROJECT SCOPE

Sequoia Riverlands Trust will develop and produce interpretative and educational materials for two preserves in Tulare County. Specifically, the Trust will:

- Conduct resource assessments to determine the prevalence of important biological, aquatic, cultural and archaeological resources to be highlighted or avoided by visitors;
- Develop a plan and partnerships for providing outdoor education programs at both preserves;
- Develop and produce a visitor access plan for both preserves including:
 - Identify appropriate activities
 - Assess amenities and define additional needs
 - Develop and produce signage and interpretative materials
 - Define management methods for access and liability
- Produce a bilingual visitors' guide covering both preserves.

Upon completion of this planning effort, both the Homer Ranch and Dry Creek preserves will be open to the public.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Initiate resource inventory at both preserves	April 2008
Develop baseline plan to be populated with inventory data	May 2008
Conduct stakeholder meetings to determine essential components	June 2008
Initiate conversations with interested educational institutions	July 2008
Initiate development of bilingual visitor guide and signage	August 2008
Complete and submit six-month progress report to SNC	October 2008
Compile and finalize resource inventory data	October 2008 – November 2008
Define level of participation from interested educational institutions	December 2008
Solicit feedback on concepts for visitor guide at both preserves	January 2009 – February 2009
Complete and submit twelve month progress report to SNC	April 2009
Finalize visitor guide and signage components and produce	April 2009 – May 2009
Finalize resource inventory and make available for public input	June 2009
Final Report/Final Payment Request	August 2009

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Oversight, stakeholder meetings and plan preparation	\$12,405
Resource Inventory	\$ 6,630
Development of partnerships with educational institutions	\$ 5,640
Visitor Guide for Dry Creek and Homer Ranch Preserves	\$21,076

GRAND TOTAL	\$45,751
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Letters of Support:

- Tulare County Supervisor District One

Recommendation:

Recommend for funding at requested amount of \$45,751.

Project Summary

Provide a summary (one-page maximum) that describes key elements of the project and states the total project cost.

Please type here: (SNC 070270 Visitor Access and Outdoor Education Plan and Visitor Guide for Homer Ranch and Dry Creek Preserves) SNC Grant Program: SOG 2

Applicant: Sequoia Riverlands Trust [www.sequoiariverlands.org] Visalia, CA

Title: Visitor Access / Outdoor Ed Plan and Visitor Guide

Location: Dry Creek & Homer Ranch Preserves, Tulare County

Contact: Dan Bell, Associate Director

Phone: (559) 738-0211 Email: dan@sequoiariverlands.org

Proposal: SRT is the primary land trust working in the southern Sierras with a sphere of influence that stretches from Kern to Fresno counties. SRT works to conserve the southern Sierra Nevada's natural and agricultural legacy. SRT owns and manages more than 4500 acres, with an additional 2500 acres protected under conservation easements. Where appropriate and managed, SRT seeks to provide public access and outdoor education programs on its nature preserves.

SRT requests that SNC fund visitor access and outdoor education planning, and production of bilingual visitor guide at two SRT-owned preserves in northeast Tulare County. Dry Creek Preserve is a retired aggregate mine bisected by Dry Creek, a major tributary of the Kaweah River. Homer Ranch Preserve also lies along Dry Creek less than three miles to the north. Homer Ranch is an 1800-acre working cattle ranch which protects critical blue oak and sycamore alluvial woodlands.

Specific project activities include:

- * Identification of important aquatic, biological, cultural and archaeological resources to be highlighted to visitors, or protected from visitor impacts, at Homer Ranch
- * Preparation of a Visitor Access Plan for the entire Homer Ranch (including recommendations for appropriate activities, facilities, and access management)
- * Development of a plan and partnerships for providing outdoor education programs (especially for young people) at both preserves
- * Production of a bilingual visitors guide covering both preserves

The proposal furthers SNC's Strategic and Program Goals of: (1) promoting private creation of recreational use on private land; (2) providing increased opportunities for tourism and recreation; (3) facilitating and fostering good planning and education efforts and (4) promoting watershed-scale education.

This activity is consistent with SNC's Education and Communications Plan by supporting education programs that promote the importance of working landscapes and stewardship of natural resources.

TOTAL SNC REQUEST: \$45,751

ADDITIONAL SECURED FUNDING: California River Parkways- \$315,650